



IMPERIAL COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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August 10, 2000

Mr. Steve Ritchie, Acting Executive Director
Cal-Fed Bay-Delta Program
1416 Ninth St., Suite 1155
Sacramento, CA 95814

RE: FINAL PROGRAMMATIC EIS/EIR

Dear Mr. Ritchie:

The Cal-Fed proposal to take nearly 250,000 acres of prime agriculture land out of production, to up-root numerous farming families and negatively impact numerous rural communities is unacceptable. Agriculture is an irreplaceable economic and environmental resource that provides numerous benefits to California citizens.

We know Cal-Fed's concern is supposed to be environmentally based, but the proposed solution is shortsighted. This proposal fails to deal with the real problem – overpopulation and over development of the coastal and near coastal metropolitan areas of San Francisco and surrounding towns. Unless serious steps are taken to control the impact of current development in the delta area and unless additional restrictions are placed on new development in the delta area, deterioration of the delta ecology will accelerate.

Instead the plan places most of the burden on farmers. Water in the rivers and reliable water supply are two of the main issues, yet no new significant above ground water storage is proposed to deal with drought years. This is a serious flaw in the proposed plan. Farmers and wildlife will both needlessly suffer in drought years from this shortsighted approach.

The brief comment period and the lack of public hearings are also of concern to our members. Cal-Fed is setting a dangerous precedence for all of the California agriculture, not just the Central Valleys.

Sincerely,


George Ray
President

Cc: Governor Gray Davis
Senator Dianne Feinstein
Senator Barbara Boxer
Congressman Duncan Hunter
State Senator Dave Kelley
Assemblyman Jim Battin
Supervisor Bill Cole

Bill Pauli, President Calif. Farm Bureau Fed.
Judi Fitzgerald, Calif. Farm Bureau Fed.
Supervisor Wally Heimgruber
Supervisor Dean Shores
Supervisor Tony Tirado
Supervisor Tom Veysey

TO REPRESENT, PROTECT AND ADVANCE THE SOCIAL, ECONOMIC AND EDUCATIONAL INTERESTS OF THE FARMERS OF THE COUNTY, THE STATE AND THE NATION